



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/767,744	01/30/2004	Christian Bauer	713-1004	5715
33712	7590	11/20/2006		EXAMINER
LOWE, HAUPTMAN, GILMAN & BERNER, LLP (ITW) 1700 DIAGONAL ROAD SUITE 300 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				WUJCIAK, ALFRED J
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
				3632

DATE MAILED: 11/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/767,744	BAUER, CHRISTIAN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Alfred Joseph Wujciak III	3632	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 July 2006.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 19-24,26-29, 31-36 and 38-41 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 19-24,26,28,29,31-36,38 and 39 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 27,40 and 41 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 30 January 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ .

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

This is the non-final Office Action for the serial number 10/767,744, RETAINING MEMBER, filed on 1/30/04.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 21-24, 26, 31, 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent # 6,708,931 to Miura.

Miura teaches a retaining member consisting of a single body comprising a holding portion (1) being attachable to the support (B) and comprising a recess (30a) for holding the elongated element (P) therein. The member includes a resilient contact portion (11b) disposed on the underside of the holding portion to define a lowermost portion of the retaining member. The holding portion comprises a base portion (21) and at least an arm (27) extending laterally from the base portion. The arm has therein the recess. The arm extends laterally away from the base portion and obliquely upwardly from the resilient contact portion. The arm has a lower surface, which is flat and slanted upwardly from the underside of the base portion. The holding portion comprises two arms (27 and 31) extending from laterally opposite sides of the base portion

(figure 31). The base portion comprises a lower opening (23a) for receiving therein a pin (s) of the support. The resilient contact portion comprises two resilient contact elements disposed on diametrically opposed sides of the opening. The lower opening has a peripheral downwardly extending wall positioned between the resilient contact elements. The holding portion is made of harder material and the resilient contact portion is made of a softer material (col. 3, lines 36-43).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 28-29 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miura.

In regards to claim 28, Miura teaches the base portion but fails to teach the base portion comprising an annular shaped. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified shape of base portion to annular shaped to provide designer's preference for the shape of the base portion.

In regards to claim 32, Miura teaches the holding portion and the resilient contact portion are made of plastic material (col. 3, lines 34-43) but fails to teach the holding portion and the resilient contact portion are constructed of same plastic material. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have replaced holding

portion and resilient contact portion with same plastic material to provide cost saving in the manufacturing process.

Claims 19-20, 34-36 and 38-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miura in view of US Patent Application Publication # 2002/0100623 to Thornton.

Miura teaches a retaining member comprising a holding portion (1) being attachable to the support (B) and comprising a recess (30a) for holding the elongated element (P) therein. The member includes a resilient contact portion (11b) disposed on the underside of the holding portion to define a lowermost portion of the retaining member. The holding portion comprises a base portion/mounting portion (21) and at least an arm (27) extending laterally from the base portion. The arm has therein the recess. The arm extends laterally away from the base portion and obliquely upwardly from the resilient contact portion. The arm has a lower surface, which is flat and slanted upwardly from the underside of the base portion. The holding portion comprises two arms extending from laterally opposite sides of the base portion (figure 31). The base portion comprises a lower opening (23a) for receiving therein a pin (s) of the support. The resilient contact portion comprises two resilient contact elements disposed on diametrically opposed sides of the opening. The lower opening has a peripheral downwardly extending wall positioned between the resilient contact elements. The holding portion is made of harder material and the resilient contact portion is made of a softer material (col. 3, lines 36-43).

Miura teaches the recess and the resilient contact portion but fails to teach the recess and resilient contact portion having lining and the recess and resilient contact portion are connected by lining. Thornton teaches the lining (26). It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill

in the art at the time the invention was made to have added lining to Miura's line seating and resilient contact portion to increase friction on the recess and resilient contact portion to remain in one position when mounted on surface and retaining pipe within the recess.

In regards to claim 36, Miura in view of Thornton teaches the material of lining, resilient contact portion and connecting element (22) but fails to teach the material is softer than the holding portion. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the material to softer than the holding portion to provide designer's choice of material for the retaining member.

Miura in view of Thornton teaches the lining, resilient contact portion comprising of thermoplastic polymer (col. 3, lines 36-43) and connecting element but fails to teach the lining and connecting element comprise of thermoplastic polymer. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the lining and connecting element material to thermoplastic polymer to increase flexibility to reduce the chance of damaging the lining and connecting element.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 27, 40-41 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In regards to claim 27, the prior art fails to teach wherein each of the resilient contact elements has a convex lower surface extending from a lowermost point upwardly in opposite

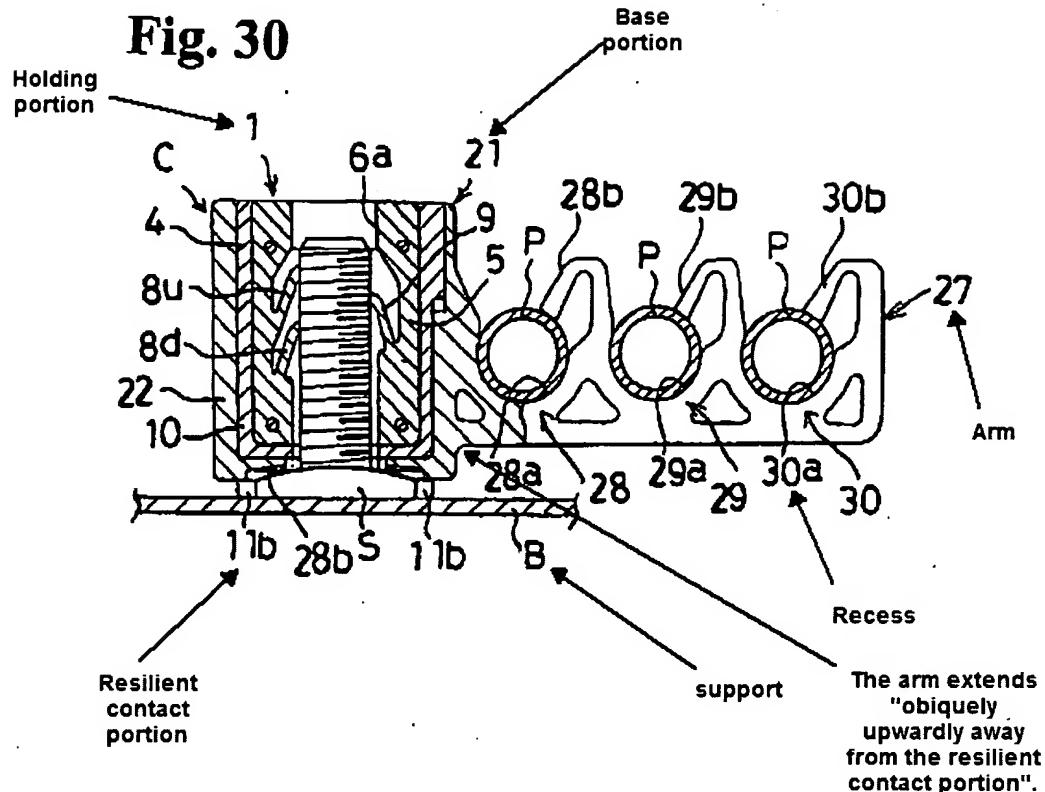
directions towards the arms. In regard to claims 40-41, the prior art fails to teach the linings of the recesses of the arms are connected to the resilient contact portion by two the connecting elements which are slanted with respect to each other and define a V shape.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 2/3/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues that Miura teaches away from the one-piece structure. The examiner disagrees with the applicant because figure 30 in Miura invention shows one-piece structure after the holding portion and base portion are connected together.

The applicant argues Miura fail to teach or suggest the claimed annular extending wall positioned between the resilient contact elements. The examiner disagrees with the applicant because Miura's extending wall with obvious modification with annular shaped is in between the two resilient contact elements as shown in figure 31.



In response to applicant's argument that Thornton is nonanalogous art, it has been held that a prior art reference must either be in the field of applicant's endeavor or, if not, then be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the applicant was concerned, in order to be relied upon as a basis for rejection of the claimed invention. See *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 24 USPQ2d 1443 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, Miura and Thornton both teach clamp for mounting on a tubular object. The clamp from Miura and Thornton are in C-shaped configuration with one end opening for allowing the tubular object to be inserted therein.

Conclusion

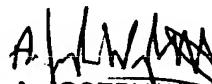
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alfred Joseph Wujciak III whose telephone number is (571) 272-6827. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl Friedman can be reached on (571) 272-6815. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Alfred Joseph Wujciak III
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3632

11/15/06


A. JOSEPH WUJCIAK III
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER